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TILTING AT WINDMILLS

—Charles Feiers

Perhaps you already know these facts about the CIA, but in case you didn't, here they are quoted from an article reprinted in the *World Press Review* from the Australian *Sydney Morning Herald*: "The budget for the CIA in fiscal 1983 has been increased 25 percent. . . . The CIA staff, which had shrunk to 14,000 during the Carter administration, is now more than 16,000. . . . Its deputy director, Admiral Bobby Inman, resigned last year largely because of the agency's use of unsavory friends, particularly former Nicaraguan National Guards."

The *Morning Herald* goes on to quote Inman as saying: "The potential value of covert action is greatly overemphasized, and problems tend to be neglected. An unfriendly government that you know may be easier to deal with than one you have helped install that does not have the capacity to govern."

You may recall that I view Never Leave The City Where The Good Bars Are as the guiding principle of life overseas in the State Department in the CIA, and among the foreign correspondents of the American press. The latest illustration is that the bomb that exploded at the embassy in Beirut wiped out the entire CIA contingent for Lebanon. You may also remember that one reason the CIA had difficulty finding out what was going on in Iran after the hostages were taken was that all its operatives were inside the embassy compound when it was seized by the mob.

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